

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Use of an effective amount of silver in the manufacture of a wound dressing comprising an anionic, amphoteric or hydrophilic polymer, which dressing, when applied to a wound site, gives a controlled release of ionic silver into the wound fluid for the prevention of staining of the underlying tissue.
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2. Use of an effective amount of silver in the manufacture of a wound dressing comprising an anionic, amphoteric or hydrophilic polymer, which, when in contact with wound exudate, gives a controlled release of ionic silver into the exudate for the maintenance of an effective antimicrobial activity within the dressing throughout the wear time of the dressing.
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3. Use as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the anionic, amphoteric or hydrophilic polymer is selected from the group of polysaccharides or modified polysaccharides, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohols, polyvinyl ethers, polyurethanes, polyacrylates, polyacrylamides, collagen, gelatin or mixtures thereof.
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4. Use as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the dressing is in the form of fibres, or a powder or distributed within a matrix of an adhesive.
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5. Use as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the dressing comprises from 0.1 to 20% by weight of silver.
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6. Use as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the release of ionic silver into water is less than 1 ppm.
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